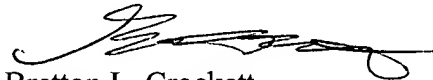


Remarks

Applicants have elected the claims of Group I. Substantive examination of the application is requested. Claims 20-23 have been cancelled by this amendment as directed to the non-elected invention, applicants reserve the right to pursue such claims in one or more related applications. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to insert sequence identification numbers in accordance with the sequence listing rules. As no change has been made to the scope of, or to any element of, any remaining claim, no limitation should be read into any claim by this amendment.

If questions exist after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact the applicants' representative at the address or telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 5, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as follows.

1. (Two Times Amended) A method for producing a filamentous bacterium exhibiting reduced branching and fragment septation during growth, said method comprising:

providing a filamentous bacterium, said filamentous bacterium lacking significant endogenous ssgA activity, with the capability of having or expressing heterologous SsgA-activity, which activity, in *Streptomyces griseus*, is encoded by an ssgA gene having at least the sequence:

1 ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTCAAGCAGAGGTCATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA
51 GGAGCTCTCGTTCCGTATTCCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTCGGCGATC
101 CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTCCCGGCGATGCCCCTGTGACC
151 TGGGCGTTCGGCCGCGAGCTGCTGCTGGACGGGCTCAACAGCCCGAGCGG
201 CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCCGACCGAGCCCGAGGGCCTCGGAGATG
251 TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTCGGCGCGGACCGTGCGCTGTTCCGGGCGGGG
301 ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCCTCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGTGCCGCT
351 CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGGTGACTTCGACGGCAACCTGGAGGACGCAC
401 TGGGCCGCATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).

2. (Two Times Amended) A method for producing a filamentous bacterium exhibiting enhanced fragmentation during growth, said method comprising:

providing a filamentous bacterium, wherein said filamentous bacterium lacks significant endogenous ssgA activity, with the capability of having or expressing heterologous ssgA-activity, which activity in *Streptomyces Griseus* is encoded by an ssgA gene having the sequence:

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1      ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTCAAGCAGAGGTCATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA
51     GGAGCTCTCGTTCCGTATTCCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTCGGCGATC
101    CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTTCCCGGCGATGCCCCTGTGACC
151    TGGGCGTTCGGCCGCGAGCTGCTGCTGGACGGGCTCAACAGCCCGAGCGG
201    CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCCGACCGAGCCCGAGGGCCTCGGAGATG
251    TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTCGGCGCGGACCGTGCGCTGTTCCGGGCGGGG
301    ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCCCTCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGTGCCGCT
351    CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGGTGACTTCGACGGCAACCTGGAGGACGCAC
401    TGGGCCGCGATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).
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